Development of Major Ports

†2341. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of any major port in the country the development of trade and shipping has been constantly slowing down;

(b) whether Government have any Plan for development of any major port along the eastern ghat;

(c) if so, whether any port has been selected for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the norms adopted for selection of the port to be developed as a major port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) No Sir, Since there are 12 major ports in the country.

(b) to (e) No new major port has been identified for development. There are already 6 major ports along the country's east coast at Kolkata/ Haldia, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Ennore, Chennai and Tuticorin. An outlay of Rs. 2109.66 crores has been approved for the development of these ports during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07).

Tonnage of the Indian Merchant Shipping

2342. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tonnage of the Indian Merchant Shipping fleet has declined by 9.43 per cent in the very first year of the Tenth Plan between the period from 1st April, 2002 to 1st April, 2003 whereas the fleet size has gone up by 10 per cent during the same period;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to make up the shortfall in order to avoid financial losses to the shipping companies; and

(c) whether bigger vessels are being discarded to provide tonnage to the new vessels being inducted in the fleet?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.